

Shorter Notes

TRICHOMANES HOLOPTERUM NEW TO THE UNITED STATES.—
In June of 1964 I received in the mail a fern leaf and a note requesting an identification. I phoned Richard and Rhoda Stone to tell them that they had collected a species of *Trichomanes* unknown to me and surely one not previously known from Florida. The following weekend the Stones showed me where they had found the plant in Collier County, a few miles south of Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41). Material collected that day was sent to Conrad V. Morton at the Smithsonian Institution and to Daniel B. Ward at the University of Florida. Both identified it as *Trichomanes holopterum* Kunze, previously known from Cuba, Jamaica and other West Indian islands.

Trichomanes holopterum differs from other Florida filmy ferns in a number of ways. The fronds are clustered radially on a short rhizome, are 5–6 cm long (occasionally to 10 cm), pinnatifid, with crisped lobes overlapping each other, and bear large sori at the end of nearly every vein. Our other filmy ferns have fronds only 1–2 cm long, spaced distantly along a creeping, thread-like rhizome, and bear relatively few sori. *Trichomanes krausii* is pinnatifid, but *T. lineolatum*, and *T. punctatum* ssp. *floridanum* both have simple fronds.

The swamp in which *T. holopterum* has been found is also in sharp contrast with the relatively dry hammock habitat of our other filmy ferns. The locality is cypress land that was lumbered about thirty years ago. The two most conspicuous trees here are Bald-cypress (*Taxodium*) and Cocoplum (*Chrysobalanus*). *Trichomanes holopterum* grows on moss-covered logs, stumps, and tree trunks all within a foot or two above the high water line. No real effort has been made to determine the local distribution of this fern, but in the small area where it was first found the number of plants has increased markedly in the last two years, and recently a few plants have been seen about a quarter of a mile away.

Specimens have been placed in the herbaria of the University of Miami, University of Florida and the Smithsonian Institu-

tion. Living material sent to Dr. W. H. Wagner at the University of Michigan has been used for chromosome and life cycle studies soon to be published.—C. E. DELCHAMPS, *Division of Natural Science, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33146*.

TRICHOMANES HOLOPTERUM IN CULTIVATION.—I have been trying to grow a specimen of *T. holopterum* collected by Dr. C. E. Delchamps and myself from an unnamed hammock in Collier County, Florida, on March 26, 1966. The plant is about 11 cm tall and has three mature and two young fronds. In nature the specimen was barely epiphytic, as it was attached to an old stump or log a few centimeters above the damp soil.

On the evening of March 26, the specimen was put on some moist sphagnum in a screwtop glass jar for the trip home. On March 30, I transferred it to a large, lightly covered brandy snifter. I embedded the fern on a small piece of dead bark in the sphagnum and covered it with a thin layer of "Living Earth," a kind of organically enriched house plant soil. By April 7 one frond had withered, and by April 24 all but the smallest frond had browned along the edges. I learned from Dr. Delchamps that adding the earth may have been my mistake; epiphytic ferns are light feeders. It remains to be seen whether removal of the rich soil will save the plant.—J. W. JOHNSTON, JR., 217 N. Wayne Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

AOSPORY IN PTERIS.—In 1919 the late Prof. William N. Steil published a paper entitled "Apospory in *Pteris sulcata* L." (*Bot. Gaz.* 57: 469–482. 1919), a work which has been often cited since in papers dealing with apospory. The plant being investigated was stated to be *Pteris sulcata* L., but there is no such species. I wrote to Professor Steil in 1949 as to whether it was possible, after a lapse of 30 years, to establish definitely the identity of the species studied. He replied (March 1, 1950): "Please excuse the delay in answering your letter. '*Pteris sulcata*' should be given as *Pteris flava*, native of the Philippines. Ref. *Hedwigia* 55: 337. 1914. In Botanical Gardens of Berlin, Leipsic, and Kew known as *P. sulcata*." This identification must be viewed with